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Homespun Holiday enjoys 24th year

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The 24th Annual Homespun Holidays Craft Show took place at the Penn State Wilkes-Barre Campus in Lehman Township on Sunday, Nov. 3. The show is part of the Arts at Hayfield, which supports fine arts, crafts and cultural performances in the Back Mountain and Wyoming Valley Area and featured dozens of vendors who brought holiday wreaths, clothing, food items, ornaments, paintings, candy, jewelry, pottery and other hand-made crafts.

Michelle Yaple, of Harveys Lake, enjoyed her first year as a vendor at the display. Yaple found out about Homespun Holiday through her employment with Penn State. A merchant on Etsy.com, Yaple brought an array of cross-stitched pillows and ornaments with her. All of the proceeds from her sales were going to the Thon Pin fundraiser, which raises



PETE G. WILCOX/THE TIMES LEADER

Devon Nelson, 7, of Dallas watches woodcarver Richard Beck of Chisels & Forge in Benton use a hammer and chisel to create a bowl from a burl while Beck's wife Maureen Beck, a blacksmith in the trade, looks on during the Homespun Holiday Craft Show at the Penn State Wilkes-Barre campus in Lehman Township.

money for pediatric cancer. Yaple plans to return to the Arts at Hayfield exhibits next year.

Jennie Veloski and Jean

Kaprel brought their hand-made quilts, aprons, hats, purses and under the tree Christmas runners to the show on behalf of Project DJ

(donating joy). The project's volunteer group has donated over 5,000 handcrafted quilts within the past 10 years to various hospitals,

particularly the Hershey Children's Hospital, as a way of giving comfort to seriously ill or traumatized children.

The volunteers meet every Monday morning at the Trucksville United Methodist Church and accept monetary donations as well as supplies. Veloski explained that the group makes no money from the sales of its items and members use some of their own money at times. Veloski also stated this was the third year the group has participated in the show, and further stated of the work that the group does is to "help people out."

Mary Button, who started her Hallstead, PA company "Endless Mountain Mustard Company" in 1996, brought a variety of her homemade mustard to the event. Button brought samples such as Gold'n Tangy, Horseradish, Garlic, Dill, Garlic Jalapeno, Lemon Pepper and Whole Grain as samples of her products. She explained the the mus-

tard comes from family recipes and her husband, Norm, helps with the preparation process.

Bernadine Vojtko and her mother Bernadine Borinski are regular participants at the show. Vojtko's Wyoming home-based business "Flower Finery" featured new items such as miniature Christmas trees and hand-made trellises, among other hand-crafted décor items.

Vojtko explained that she wanted to create additional new items, but has been experiencing a very hectic schedule at Wyoming Seminary, where she was choreographing the school's production of "How to Succeed in Business without Really Trying" in preparation for its Nov. 8-10th performances.

Vojtko and Borinski are both members of the Arts at Hayfield organization.

Vojtko commented that she enjoys participating in the craft shows as all proceeds benefit a "worthy cause to continue arts in the area." The Arts at Hayfield

has benefitted artistic establishments such as the Kirby Center, The Little Theater of Wilkes Barre and various local library programs. Borinski added that she always enjoys the events as well and is looking forward to returning next year with her daughter.

Arlene Roerig, of Dallas, brought hand-crafted worry gigs and homemade dog biscuits for her seventh appearance with the Arts at Hayfield display. She has been in the worry gig business for over 10 years. Roerig spoke about the homemade dog biscuits, which contain no dyes, preservatives or added salt, explaining at the summer event she brought 80 bags of biscuits with her, and by noon, they were all gone. She brought 45 bags for the Homespun Holiday event and had only four bags left by noon.

Troy, PA artist Bonnie Bell-Hilfinger has attended the event from the first year

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Rhythmic conversations

Dallas woman participates with Everything Natural Drummers

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Beneath Everything Natural at 426 S. State St. in Clarks Summit is a secret buried treasure.

But not the kind that may first come to mind.

This is a treasure of musical rhythm, conversation and community. It is also perhaps one of the Abington area's best-kept secrets: a drum circle group called The Everything Natural Drummers, which meets in the basement of the natural foods shop about every other week (generally the second and fourth Fridays of the month) from 1 to 4 p.m.

"A lot of times people will hear us and wander down, and are like, 'Wow,'" said one of the drummers, Dave Krewson, of Clarks Summit.



Elizabeth Baumeister | The Abington Journal

Clockwise, from right, Keith White, of Factoryville; Ed Crawley, of Clarks Summit; Dave Krewson, of Clarks Summit and Sandy Newell, of Dallas participate in a drum circle at Everything Natural in Clarks Summit.

"It's infectious. And we have fun."

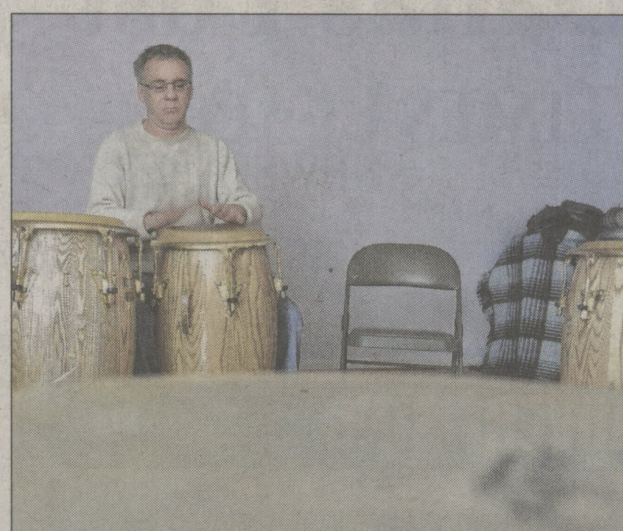
The group also occasionally holds drum circles at different locations, such as local parks and during various community events. It will be featured during this month's Open Mic Night at 8:15 p.m. on Friday, Nov. 22 at the Dietrich Theater in downtown Tunkhannock.

The drum circles vary in size from week to week, according to Krewson, but it has been known to surpass 20 drummers at one time. The event starts off with

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Sandy Newell, of Dallas, participates in a drum circle at Everything Natural in Clarks Summit.



Ed Crawley, of Clarks Summit, participates in a drum circle at Everything Natural.

Join the conversation

The Everything Natural Drummers generally meet from 1 to 4 p.m. on the second and fourth Fridays of the month in the basement of Everything Natural, 426 S. State St., Clarks Summit. The group welcomes newcomers of all ages and musical levels, and will provide instruction to those who never before used a percussion instrument.

On this month's fourth Friday, Nov. 22, the group will be featured at Open Mic Night at the Dietrich Theater in downtown Tunkhannock at 8:15 p.m. (Open Mic begins at 7 p.m.) Admission is free and musicians, poets, storytellers, comedians, playwrights and other performers are invited to share their talents, with sign-ups beginning at 6:30 p.m.

For more information about the Dietrich Theater's Open Mic Night, call 570-996-1500. For information about the Everything Natural Drummers, call 570-586-9684.



Keith White, of Factoryville, participates in a drum circle at Everything Natural in Clarks Summit.

THERE HE IS!



BILL TARUTIS/FOR THE DALLAS POST

Six-year-old Carter Brunn, center, of Dallas, reacts with other children to the arrival of Wilkes-Barre/Scranton Penguins mascot Tux at the Back Mountain Memorial Library. Tux and several members of the Penguins hockey team visited the library for a family reading event. For more photos, please turn to page 5.

A blaze of glory

Dallas High School cross country champions welcomed home

Special to The Dallas Post



Pictured atop the Franklin Twp. Fire Truck are the Dallas High School girls cross country state champions and their coach. They are Olivia Birdsall, Megan Ostrum, Ally Amos, Bryanna Dissinger, Coach Matt Samuel, Regan Rome, Katie Gross, Ally Rome, Riley Oremus and Lindsey Oremus.

and Lake Lehman runner, Dominic Hockenbury, who finished second at 16:36.

The girls team - Regan Rome (2nd, 19:10), Lindsey Oremus (7th, 19:41), Bryanna Dissinger (8th, 19:47), Ally Rome (9th, 19:47), Riley Oremus (74th, 21:50), Ally Amos (114th, 23:01), Katie Gross (117:23:14) and Megan Ostrum (alternate) - waited nervously after the race, exploding into a laughing, crying, screaming, jumping frenzy upon hearing the news.

Thanks to showers and



Dallas High School Cross Country state champion Dominic Deluca with Coach Matt Samuel arrive home atop a firetruck.

Senior Dominic Deluca also secured his own gold medal as he came across the finish line first overall with a time of 16:21 - well ahead of his friend

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